

1 hopefully.

2 I think there's still room to move on training direct  
3 supervision staff on preventing incidents from occurring. I think  
4 that's happened to a degree, but it's a continuing work in  
5 progress to get all staff to be as observant and preventive in  
6 their interactions with youth as possible to head off conflicts  
7 and misbehavior.

8 But, overall, it's a -- overall, I guess my sense would be  
9 if you looked at my reports from the last few times, I think  
10 reflect continued progress and, hopefully, just kind of stay the  
11 course as it relates to the youth.

12 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Moser.

13 MR. MOSER: Sure. Thank you.

14 THE COURT: And you may be excused anytime you wish,  
15 Mr. Moser. If there's anything that I have a question about, I'm  
16 pretty sure part of the team or somebody will be able to respond.

17 MR. MOSER: Thank you.

18 MS. SIMPSON: I would like to ask my corrections expert,  
19 Mr. Dave Parrish, to give his synopsis.

20 MR. PARRISH: Good afternoon, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Good afternoon.

22 MR. PARRISH: I'm David Parrish, and I handle the  
23 corrections operations aspects of the jail system, just day-to-day  
24 jail operations. My background is I did 34 and a half years with  
25 the Hillsboro County Sheriff's Office in Tampa, Florida, and the

1 last 27 years of my career there, I was the colonel in charge of  
2 the County jail system.

3 During that time up until I retired in 2008, I oversaw the  
4 design and construction of 5,000 beds of jail space, all direct  
5 supervision. And when I was there, it was all accredited by the  
6 American Correctional Association, so we met constitutional  
7 standard. And I've been retired since 2008, and now I tend to use  
8 my experience there to help out on projects like this.

9 Unfortunately, much of what I have to report on is the --  
10 I guess you could say the unsavory part of the reports. I have to  
11 look at things from a practical point of view. Can the jail staff  
12 actually manage the inmate population with the circumstances that  
13 they have there, so the monitor covered the basic things that I'm  
14 going to cover. I'd just like to go into a little bit of detail.

15 Basically, the Hinds County jail system is comprised of  
16 three jails, one that goes back to 1976 or so when it was built,  
17 the Jackson Detention Center; it's an old linear jail. It can't  
18 really handle direct supervision. Direct supervision being if  
19 this were the unit, there's an officer in charge, and then all the  
20 inmates are out and about just like a teacher in a classroom. And  
21 that's the way that all the jails are supposed to operate under  
22 the terms of the settlement agreement. That's the way the Raymond  
23 Detention Center was actually designed, but they gave up on that  
24 many, many years ago. So that's what we're trying to get back to.

25 Then you have more traditional confinement space for

1 people that can't cooperate in that kind of environment, and they  
2 get locked down. So it's like instant repercussions for your  
3 action. Behave, become a part of the operation, or we have an  
4 alternative.

5 The work center was actually designed that way, although  
6 it was not designed as a direct supervision jail. It really looks  
7 more like an old prison dormitory, and at one point half of the  
8 people in there were state prisoners. The County doesn't handle  
9 them anymore. They've gone back to the State, and it's been  
10 subdivided. Instead of two great big dorms, now it's four more  
11 manageable dorms of about 64 inmates each.

12 The staff there have not been properly trained in how to  
13 operate direct supervision, so at the present time they're  
14 overstaffed from my perspective. You should have one person in  
15 charge of a direct supervision dorm, and right now because of  
16 historical issues, they still have extra staff in there. And  
17 that's one place where I think we can help in saving staff for  
18 them.

19 The third jail, of course, is the Raymond Detention  
20 Center, which is the facility that gets the most attention,  
21 because that's where the biggest problems are. And that facility  
22 was designed and built in 1995. It was designed for direct  
23 supervision, and, apparently, operated that way initially. But  
24 for whatever reason, either shortage of staff or administration  
25 policy, I don't know what, this is a number of administrations

1 back, the officers were pulled out of the housing units.

2 Well, the bottom line was, then the inmates took over, and  
3 they totally destroyed the place. And there was a riot about  
4 seven years ago where pod Charlie was totally trashed. They lost  
5 the thing completely. The inmates were able to get inside the  
6 control room. Destroyed the sprinkler system, everything was  
7 gone. That whole pod has since been rebuilt, and as you just  
8 heard, pod Charlie is now being rebuilt again just a few years  
9 later.

10 I can understand the frustration on the part of the County  
11 maintenance staff; we fix it and they tear it up, you know. The  
12 problem is the inmates tear it up, because there's nobody there to  
13 manage them, no supervisor, no officer in the units, and that's  
14 what we have to get back to.

15 Four major issues: staffing, lack of policies and  
16 procedures, maintenance issues, and doors that don't work on just  
17 an incredible level, and, finally, fire safety, one other issue  
18 associated with the maintenance and such.

19 Staffing, as has been indicated, a staffing study was done  
20 on what should be available to operate all three jails properly,  
21 and it was done by the County and the sheriff's staff and I did it  
22 independently. And we came up with about two positions, and it  
23 comes down to they need about 433 people to operate everything  
24 properly. That's more people than there are in the entire  
25 sheriff's office, so that's not something that's viable right now.

1 And so what we've done is look at what can be done on a  
2 step-by-step basis.

3 The goal for last year was to have 275 people on board.  
4 We haven't come close to that, and, as was reported, we're down to  
5 229 right now. And of that 275, only 271 are funded. We've still  
6 been asking for the last four to be funded, and that's another  
7 issue of how do you get people on board? What can be done?

8 And we've been through a lot of different things, and I  
9 think the monitor will cover some more of that later on. And if  
10 necessary, I can always come back. But I won't belabor that right  
11 now.

12 That's a critical issue. The staffing is too low at each  
13 jail. They're able to get by at the Jackson Detention Center and  
14 the work center, because their population there is lower than  
15 their rated capacity. There are about 1100 beds in the entire  
16 jail system, and years ago there used to be over a thousand people  
17 in the jail system. Today it's down around 595, thank goodness.  
18 They used to book 9- or 10,000 people a year. Right now, they're  
19 booking between 6- and 7,000 a year. Those numbers are very  
20 encouraging.

21 But they've got about 120, 115 people at the Jackson  
22 Detention Center, about 200 at the work center, and about 275 at  
23 the Raymond center. Now, the Raymond center technically has about  
24 700-plus beds. But so many of them are not usable that -- so it's  
25 not even a comparison of what technically they have on board.

1           Okay. So policies and procedures; we have been going  
2 around this for two and a half years, and no jail can operate  
3 without policies and procedures. The officers don't know what  
4 they're supposed to do, so word of mouth orders change from day to  
5 day. And that's what we see every time we come back here. We set  
6 something in place. We come back the next time, it's not the  
7 same. Why? Well, the sergeant said to do -- I would always want  
8 to go back to the policy. Well, it doesn't exist, and that's our  
9 problem.

10           And you asked about what percentage of them are done, it's  
11 a minuscule amount right now. I mean, we are just getting  
12 started. And the problem has been that the County or the  
13 sheriff's office prepared policies and procedures and post orders  
14 initially, but they were totally unsatisfactory and didn't meet  
15 the standards at all. So they were set aside.

16           Then there was an effort to go through a local university  
17 and then through a private contractor and then finally to where we  
18 are today, so that's why we've been going through these various  
19 steps to get the job done that should have been addressed  
20 immediately.

21           So I like the process that we're going through now. It is  
22 productive. It gets people on board with it. It's not just  
23 something that's passed down to them and said do this, but it's  
24 not fast enough. We're way, way behind the curve there.

25           Maintenance; I came here five years ago at the behest of